

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7958

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 04914

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PDEV, PINT, US, FR

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON PUERTO RICAN "INDEPENDENCE"

REF: PARIS 4469

1. WE LODGED FORMAL PROTEST FEBRUARY 17 AGAINST USE OF OFFICIAL FRENCH LEGISLATIVE PREMISES FOR CONFERENCE ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE JANUARY 27-29. PROTEST WAS DELIVERED BY NOTE TO JACQUES DE FOLIN, DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAS IN THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN ORAL PRESENTATION, WE STRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS --

- A. IN VARIOUS FREE ELECTIONS, PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED TO CONTINUE ASSOCIATION WITH USA.
- B. WHILE GOF OBVIOUSLY CANNOT PREVENT INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS FROM DISCUSSING PUERTO RICO, USE OF OFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE PREMISES TO HOUSE A CONFERENCE ON THE SUBJECT CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
- C. WE INTEND TO BRING OUR STRONG FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FRENCH SENATE LEADERSHIP, BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD ALSO EXER-

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CISE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.

2. MR. DE FOLIN RESPONDED THAT THE MINISTRY DEPLORED THE USE OF THE SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM TO HOUSE THE MEETING. HE SAID THE PROTEST WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HIM AS A VEHICLE FOR APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE SENATE TO PREVENT FUTURE USE OF OFFICIAL PREMISES FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. HE PROMISED AN EARLY RESPONSE.

RUSH

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NNN

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